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lower subordinates of the Revenue department at rates considerably higher than the settlement pattom. In these cases, it was desirable that the pattom fixed should not exceed the assessment that would be put upon the trees at the settlement. He suggested, therefore, that the trees standing on poramboke lands be ordered to be registered in the names of the growers at a uniform rate of 2 chs. per tree.

Dewan's reply.—There are several questions raised. In regard to the field bunds, the survey and settlement having been already completed, we cannot now alter the classification retrospectively by any general order. At the same time, I would point out to you that, under the standing orders, it is competent to the Peishkar, should he consider that any land has been classified as poramboke but that it is not needed for any public purpose, to obtain sanction to transfer it to the head of assessed waste and register it in the name of the occupant. I would therefore advise you to bring individual cases to the notice of the Revenue department and thus obtain the necessary redress. In the case of porambokes whose assignment is not considered desirable, it is competent to the Revenue department to register on kuthagapattom the trees standing on those lands. This also is a matter for the Revenue department.

As regards the rates of pattom, that again is a matter for the Peishkars and Tahsildars, and I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by my issuing any general order. I would ask you to meet the Peishkar and explain to him the matters in which you seek redress. Should the Peishkar think that the rules now in force require revision in any respect, it is open to him to submit proposals for revising them.

Suggestions for reducing the growing poverty of the people on account of the steady rise in the price of paddy.

Mr. K. Raman Unnithan (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) said that, as compared with the condition of the country till 1082, a growing poverty was now noticeable among the people generally, the chief causes being the decline in agriculture and the wholesale prevention of hill cultivation. With a view to improve the present condition, he made the following suggestions for the consideration of Government:—

(1) Cultivation should be allowed in unobjectionable places within reserves, as laid down in G. O. No. 3142, dated 1st July 1907.

(2) Malavaram cultivation should also be permitted

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(3) Permission should be given to reclaim backwaters and cultivate them.

(4) Backwaters and other irrigation sources already registered should be restored to their original condition.

(5) Irrigation canals, tanks, &c. should be maintained.

(6) Remission of tax should be allowed in all cases of failure of crops.

(7) Model farms should be opened in each taluk and the people taught improved methods of agriculture.

(8) Agricultural banks should be established in each taluk and small loans of money made to ryots on low interest.

(9) Lands fit for cultivation within reserves should be registered in the names of the ryots.

(10) The paddy decreed in courts should be made payable in money at the commutation rate of 11 chs. per para.

Dewan's reply.— I am by no means certain of the growing poverty of the people referred to by the Member. Even if there *is* such growing poverty, it is unlikely that the bringing under cultivation of hills, backwaters, etc. would do much good. Indiscriminate extension of cultivation would probably lead to disastrous results.

6. *Undesirability of registering Nirthal lands useful for communal purposes.*

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer (Member, Shencottah Taluk) requested that orders might be issued to prevent the registry of Nirthal lands which were likely to be useful for purposes of common pasturage or roads for agricultural traffic or for enlarging the areas of existing irrigation tanks or those of fuel forests or forests from which agricultural implements could be collected. With a view to secure that object, he suggested the desirability of publishing lists of all available Nirthal lands in each taluk so as to enable the ryots concerned to represent to the local officers the necessity of retaining any, and if so, which of them, for public or communal purposes. At present, several such useful lands were being registered away for nominal prices. The suggestion, if adopted, would save the Government the heavy compensation they would have to pay in the event of any of the lands being subsequently found to be required for any public purpose.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalan (Member, Shencottah Taluk) supported the previous speaker.

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